

Bay County Extension Council

Minutes November 19, 2008

Date: November 19, 2008

Time: 5:19 p.m.

Place: MSU Extension Bay County, Third Floor, Large Conference Room

Member(s) Present:

Mary Jo Brandt
George Heron

Marybeth Laisure
Bill Palmer

Doug Rise
Barb Wishowski

Member(s) Excused:

Philip Englehardt

Lyle LeCronier

Others Present:

Ann Arnold, FCS Extension Educator
Brian Daley, ANR Extension Educator
Judy Delestowicz, Administrative Assistant
Jan Rise, Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator
Jodi Schulz, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator
Howard Wetters, County Extension Director

INFORMATION PRESENTED AND DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

Doug Rise, chair, called the meeting was called to order at 5:19 p.m. The minutes of the September 17, 2008, meeting were approved. There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Brian Daley, Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Extension educator, provided an update on the status of the completion of his Master's degree from MSU. Mr. Daley expects to be in the MSUE Bay office day-to-day starting January 2009.

Patti Dubay is the new president on the 4-H Advisory Council for 2009; therefore, she will be replacing Mike Meier who was the 2008 4-H Advisory Council president.

It was moved and supported to nominate Doug Rise as chair of Extension Council for 2009. No other nominations were presented for consideration. Motion was approved unanimously. After a brief discussion, it was moved, supported, and approved unanimously to nominate the current Council officers to hold the same

positions in 2009, with elections to be held at the next (January 2009) meeting. The current slate of officers are: Doug Rise, chair; Mary Beth Laisure, vice chair; and Philip Engelhardt, secretary.

After some discussion about deer season and the November meeting, the 2009 Bay County Extension Council meeting schedule was accepted:

January 21, March 18, May 20, August 13 (at Fair), September 16, and November 18.

MSU Extension Bay County will prepare an insert for member's binders with the 2009 meeting dates to be available at the next meeting.

Mr. Wetters provided an brief report on Senior Project FRESH. This was a new program offered to qualifying senior citizens in 2008. Because it was the first time that MSU Extension Bay County offered Sr. Project FRESH, it was limited to those qualifying individuals housed in local senior high-rises. It was in cooperation with the United Way, Bay City Housing Commission, and the Bay County Housing Commission who provided local match funds and staff time to insure the program went well. Bay County Division on Aging meal sites and the Bradley House were added later in the season to expand the distribution sites. This was a very well received program, with 274 individuals receiving coupon books in the amount of \$20 to purchase fresh, Michigan-grown produce from local participating farmers. Only a handful of undistributed coupon books were returned to OSA.

Mr. Wetters talked about a survey that is being planned to get feedback on the Sr. Project FRESH program. Council asked if MSU Extension - Bay County could add the question where/which county the seniors redeemed their coupons.

Mr. Wetters introduced a procedure that MSU Extension employs to identify issues to help set programming efforts to called 'plan of work,' which is used to annually review and set programming goals. Mr. Wetters stated that formulating an annual plan of work (POW) could be similar to the issues identification/goal setting process Extension Council participated in 2006. Mr. Wetters handed out a copy of that 2006 report to those present. A POW would focus on local needs and mirror MSU Extension programming areas: youth development, parenting, nutrition, child development, agriculture, and community development.

A dinner meeting and work session will be held at the January 21, 2009, Extension Council meeting. It is Mr. Wetters intention to invite other local agencies and collaborators who share common interests with MSU Extension's program areas to attend. Some discussion centered around existing collaborative bodies and task forces and how they can share what they see as emerging issues and share/isolate resources. Along with the goal setting concept, MSU Extension Bay County will be

sending out a packet with statistical and demographic information with the invitation in early January. Turning Point technology will be used to capture the data at the January 21 meeting.

Ms. Jodi Schulz, Extension educator, gave Council an brief report on the annual MSU Extension Fall Conference held in October. She provided an electronic message from Dr. Tom Coon on why MSU Extension had merged Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) and 4-H Youth Development program areas to CYFC - Children, Youth, Families and Communities. Ms. Schulz showed the new CYFC Website. Also introduced was a new toll-free number (a magnet was handed out) that the general public can call to be connected with any MSU Extension office in the state of Michigan:

1-888-MSUE-4MI

MSU Extension Reports:

Mr. Wetters reported under grants and staffing that a new full-time Extension educator would be hired in the first part of 2009. Funding has been secured from Bay Arenac ISD under a PIE (Parent Involvement and Education) grant. This new position will take up a large portion of the duties held by the Successful Futures program's intake and referral coordinator position formerly funded by 0-3 Secondary Prevention. There was some discussion regarding the referral service this position would provide and what direct services would not be performed from how the program was structured in 2008.

Based upon the Continuum of Care - Project CARE event that was held today, there is still a real need for people in our community to locate and find material needs resources and community service providers for assistance. Over eight hundred people attended.

Also under staffing and grants, Mr. Wetters offered good luck to Mr. Daley on his efforts to begin the first of the year. Mr. Wetters informed the Council that the technology coordinator position was eliminated from the MSU Extension Bay County budget. This was a full-time county position previously held by Mr. Brian Dick. Mr. Brian Dick left employment with Bay County in August after many years of service to MSU Extension.

Due to the reduction in support staff, new floor hours start January 2, 2009. The MSU Extension-Bay County office will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Staff will still report to work at 8 a.m.

The Better Kid Care (BKC) program expects to find out about its grant status in March. The nutrition program (FNP) funding is expected to be approved before the end of the year.

Ms. Ann Arnold, Extension educator, shared that the breast-feeding friendly diaper bag project is going well. A health fair is planned in Pinconning this winter, which MSU Extension is presenting. The Healthy Toddler research project is also going well, with nine persons signing up at the Continuum of Care - Project CARE event today.

Ms. Jodi Schulz gave an update on 4-H events. The 4-H soup supper fundraiser this month went very well. An agri-science community service project is planned for December in collaboration with Bay Arenac ISD. 4-H has a Toys-4-Tots drive going on during the holidays. Another Winter Workshop is being planned for January. This youth workshop is open to the public. 4-H staff is also working on two banquets to honor both youth and leaders in February 2009. There will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser planned in February. Another Shaggy Spring Fling horse show is scheduled for April. Most clubs are reviewing their club's bylaws for the new program year. The 4-H wreath fundraiser ended November 18, with about one hundred twenty wreaths sold, decorated, and delivered. Ms. Schulz also reported that she and Jodi Wrzsinski, 4-H program assistant, continue to work with the Boys & Girls clubs on delivering programming. Additionally, staff is working with Wenona High School to offer MSU Extension educational programming on financial planning in the future. Ms. Schulz handed out flyers on two events that support 4-H programs: MSU Women's Basketball Days and discounts on Red Wings tickets in November and December.

Ms. Schulz anticipates completing her Master's degree in youth development with Nebraska State in 2009.

Mr. Wetters reported that a winter schedule is being set up to deliver agriculture programming in Bay and Arenac counties.

He stated that with the cost of production way up versus revenue from crops, there is a need to look into finding facilitators from campus to present tools to growers on how they can lower production costs to get through these hard economic times. Ms. Wishowski offered her help in setting up the presentations.

Ms. Jan Rise, Master Gardener volunteer program coordinator, reported that the season is winding down. MDOT is planning to rework the (garden) beds at the I-75 rest stop to make it more manageable. With over 9,000 square feet, a landscape architect is involved in developing a new plan. A new class is being offered this winter, starting January 21.

Mr. Wetters stated that the Communities for a Lifetime (C4L) county-wide designation has been sent out to the state of Michigan for review in December.

Also, there was a meeting of the Downtown Bay City Farmers Market Association, today. For those association and farm vendors who attended, they felt that the new market met their expectations and were happy with its first year. There is lots of potential to grow. There were some difficulties, like heavy wind gusts at the Saginaw Street location. DBCFM members will be surveyed for a clearer picture. Kudos and congratulations to Market Master Jan Rise for a great year for this new market!

A copy of the 2008 third quarter to the Bay County executive was handed out to those present.

A Council member list was passed around for updates to addresses and emails for 2009.

The next meeting will be held on January 21, 2009. Mr. Rise wished everyone happy holidays and adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN

- It was moved, supported, and carried to approve the September 17, 2008, meeting minutes.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to nominate Doug Rise for the position of 2009 Bay County Extension Council chair.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to nominate the full slate of 2008 Extension Council officers (Rise-chair; Laisure-vice chair; Engelhardt- secretary) for the position(s) of the same in 2009, with elections held at the January 2009 meeting.
- It was moved, supported, and carried to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Prepared by J. Delestowicz